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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,299	08/19/2003	Bettina Steinmann	USA.353	6650
22514	7590	11/07/2005	EXAMINER	
3D SYSTEMS, INC. 26081 AVENUE HALL VALENCIA, CA 91355			TENTONI, LEO B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1732

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/644,299

Applicant(s)

STEINMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Leo B. Tentoni

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22-42 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08212003; 09112003; 11082004; 12272004; 02152005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-21, drawn to a stereolithography process, classified in class 264, subclass 401.

II. Claims 22-42, drawn to a composition, classified in class 522, subclass 71.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions II and I are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another and materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in another and materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the product as claimed can be used in another and materially different process such as a casting, extrusion or injection molding process.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by

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their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. During a telephone conversation with Ralph D'Alessandro, applicant's representative, on 04 October 2005 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-21. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 22-42 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

#### ***Claim Objections***

6. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: There is a period missing at the end of claim 2. Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, step (e), the expression "repeating steps (3) and (4)" renders the claim indefinite principally because there are no previously-recited steps (3) and (4) (it appears that applicant is referring to steps (c) and (d)).

In claim 3, line 1, the expression "component (A)" renders the claim indefinite principally because there is no previously-recited component (A) (it appears that applicant is referring to component (a)).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the

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effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haruta et al (EP 0830928 B1).

Haruta et al (see the entire document, in particular, paragraphs [0011] - [0016] and [0031] - [0084]) teach a stereolithography process as set forth in the instant claims, including the use of a liquid radiation-curable composition having at least one filler comprising silica-type nanoparticles.

11. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al (EP 0831373 A2).

Watanabe et al (see the entire document, in particular, page 3, line 21 to page 10, line 26) teach a stereolithography process as set forth in the instant claims, including the use of a liquid radiation-curable composition having at least one filler comprising silica-type nanoparticles.

12. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Napadensky et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0207959 A1).

Napadensky et al (see the entire document, in particular, paragraphs [0010] and [0126] - [0130]) teach a process of making a three-dimensional object as set forth in the instant claims, including the use of a liquid radiation-curable composition

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having at least one filler comprising silica-type nanoparticles. While Napadensky et al is primarily directed to three-dimensional printing (to make the three-dimensional object), Napadensky et al do also teach stereolithography as a process for making a three-dimensional object.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35

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U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

15. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Napadensky et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0207959 A1).

Napadensky et al (see the entire document, in particular, paragraphs [0010] and [0126] - [0130]) teach a process of making a three-dimensional object as set forth in the instant claims, including the use of a liquid radiation-curable composition having at least one filler comprising silica-type nanoparticles, by three-dimensional printing. However, the claimed process would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of Napadensky et al principally because Napadensky et al also teach stereolithography as a process for making a three-dimensional object.

#### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leo B. Tentoni whose telephone number is (571) 272-1209. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (6:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.).



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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Colaianni can be reached on (571) 272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Leo B. Tentoni*

Leo B. Tentoni  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1732

lbt